

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1119

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH BC

SUBJ: RHODESIA: PRESIDENT KHAMA REAFFIRMS GOB SUPPORT OF UK-
US PLAN

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: IN HIS NOV 21 SPEECH OPENING PARLIAMENT, PRESIDENT KHAMA REAFFIRMED BOTSWANA'S SUPPORT FOR UK-US ZIMBABWE INITIATIVE REFERRING TO IT AS THE "LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM". HE RECALLED THAT ALL EARLIER ATTEMPTS TO PEACEFULLY RETURN RHODESIA TO LEGALITY HAD FAILED AND PREDICTED THAT, IN ABSENCE OF SETTLEMENT ALONG LINES OF UK-US PROPOSAL, LIBERATION WAR WILL QUICKLY REACH POINT OF NO RETURN.

2. PRESIDENT PREDICTABLY LAID BLAME FOR RHODESIAN CRISIS ON INTRANSIGENCE OF SMITH, BUT HE ALSO SHARPLY CRITICIZED "PERPETUALLY DIVIDED" ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS. ACCORDING TO KHAMA, "FUTILE STRUGGLE BETWEEN RHODESIA BASED NATIONALISTS AND THOSE
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WHO OPERATE EXTERNALLY" IS PARTICULARLY DISCOURAGING TO THOSE WHO HAVE TRIED TO PREVENT DESTRUCTION OF RHODESIA BEFORE IT BECOMES ZIMBABWE.

3. REFERRING TO FRONTLINE STATES MEETING IN MAPUTO, PRESIDENT KHAMA RECALLED THAT UK-US PLAN HAD BEEN WELCOMED AS "A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS". HOWEVER, KHAMA REMINDED HIS

AUDIEMCE THAT "IT IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA THEMSELVES TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY ARE GOING TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF THEIR COUNTRY ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS OR WHETHER WAR MUST CONTINUE". HE NOTED THAT NATIONALIST GROUPS NOW APPEAR TO BE "INEXORABLY COMMITTED" TO MILITARY SOLUTION AND ARE "NOT PREPARED TO CONSIDER A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WHICH WE BELIEVE CAN BE ACHIEVED BY THE CURRENT ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE IF IT IS GIVEN A CHANCE". END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: AT A TIME WHEN SUPPORT FOR ANGLO/US PLAN AMONG SOME FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS (NOTABLY KAUNDA) IS WAVERING, KHAMA'S STRONG PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES IS WELCOME. WE BELIEVE GOB CAN CONTINUE TO BE COUNTED UPON TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS IN COUNCILS OF FRONTLINE STATES AS LONG AS OUR OWN COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLES OF THE PLAN REMAINS FIRM.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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